

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 12518 161603Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 HA-05 NEA-10 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /062 W
-----107986 180129Z /64

R 161542Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3237
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 12518

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE ON RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMI-
NATION: COMPETENCE OF CHAIRMAN

REF: STATE 207040

1. ALL REPORTS THAT HAVE REACHED THIS MISSION HAVE BEEN
EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF MOLAPO AS A CHAIRMAN. SPECIFICALLY,
WE ARE TOLD THAT, DURING THE LESOTHO SYMPOSIUM, HE HAD TO
BE SPOON-FED ALL THE COMMENTS THAT HE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO
MAKE, INCLUDING EVEN COMMON COURTESIES SUCH AS "THANK
YOU". THROUGHOUT THE SESSION, HE NEVER ACQUIRED THE SKILL
OF CALLING ON DELEGATES, EVEN WITH THE SPEAKERS' LIST BE-
FORE HIM AND IN BUREAU MEETINGS, HE NEVER COMPREHENDED
WHAT WAS REALLY HAPPENING. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CON-
FERENCE HAS REPORTEDLY ALREADY PREPARED WRITTEN NOTES AND
STATEMENTS THAT CAN BE SLIPPED TO HIM AS APPROPRIATE.
THIS DOES NOT AUGUR WELL FOR HOW THE CONFERENCE WILL GO
WHEN THE CRUNCH COMES AND IT BECOMES NECESSARY FOR THE
CHAIRMAN TO ASSERT LEADERSHIP IN STAVING OFF A Z-R RESO-
LUTION.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 12518 161603Z

2. ASSUMING THAT EVEN A FRACTION OF WHAT WE HAVE HEARD IS
TRUE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT AS
THE CHAIRMAN'S MENTOR BECOMES KEY. WE THINK IT WILL BE
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE SECRE-
TARIAT GUIDING HIM WHEN THE CONFERENCE GETS INTO STORMY
WATER. AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE EX-

TREMELY UNWISE FOR THIS MISSION TO BE SEEN GUIDING NARAS-
IMHAN OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT TO MAKE THIS
POINT. THE CHARGE, THEREFORE, PLANS TO BRING IT UP
DIRECTLY WITH THE WESTERN VICE-PRESIDENTS (CANADA AND
ITALY) TO SEE WHETHER THEY, IN TURN, COULD EXPRESS
DISCREETLY THEIR CONCERNS TO APPROPRIATE PEOPLE IN THE
SECRETARIAT. THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO REINFORCE
THIS INITIATIVE BY MAKING REPRESENTATIONS IN OTTAWA AND
ROME. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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